

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00485 062053Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 INT-05 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 IO-13
/106 W

-----022335 070820Z /17

R 060210Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3172
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0485

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, XP, XG, PP
SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE REQUIREMENT TO PRESENT USG VIEWS AND TO DISCUSS POLICY MATTERS CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY (SPRFA), THIS EMBASSY, AND APPARENTLY OTHERS, LACK INFORMATION ABOUT BOTH USG'S REAL OBJECTIVES AND BACKGROUND INFO ON RATHER TECHNICAL SUBJECT. GUIDANCE ON AREAS IDENTIFIED BELOW WOULD BE APPRECIATED. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO CONTENTIOUS ISSUES DIVIDE THE USG AND GPNG AS SOUTH PACIFIC STATES MOVE TOWARDS THE SECOND MEETING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPRFA. ONE IS THE MATTER OF COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AND THE OTHER THE NATURE OF THE ORGANIZATION, CENTERING LARGELY ON THE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP, WITH PNG DESIRING AN EXCLUSIVE INTEREST GROUP AND THE U.S. A BROADER, REGIONAL GROUPING. ADDITIONALLY, PNG DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES WILSON, HAS INFORMALLY PROPOSED TO US A TWO-ORGANIZATION
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APPROACH TO FISHERIES IN SOUTH PACIFIC; ONE A BROAD ORGANIZATION, TO WHICH U.S. WOULD BELONG, WOULD BE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INFORMATION AGENCY (SEE WILSON-OLMSTED-MAYBARDUK MEMCON OF FEB. 20 POUCHED TO EA/ANP); OTHER WOULD BE SPRFA WHICH WOULD BE APPENDAGE TO SP FORUM (WITH MEMBERSHIP LIMITED TO FORUM STATES) TO WHICH IT WOULD RECOMMEND QUOTAS.

3. EMBASSY IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY WELL INFORMED TO DISCUSS ALL FACETS OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, TO ASSESS ACCEPTABILITY TO USG OF PNG'S POSSIBLE TWO-TREATY APPROACH OR TO EVALUATE NEW IDEAS, SUCH AS WILSON'S TWO ORGANIZATION APPROACH. EMBASSY NEEDS NOT ONLY BACKGROUND INFO ON TECHNICAL SUBJECT OF FISHERIES BUT ALSO INFORMATION AS TO USG OBJECTIVES. IS THE USG SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN SPRFA AS AN END IN ITSELF? DO WE, AS A MAJOR FISHING AND FISH-CONSUMING NATION, BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BELONG TO SUCH AN ORGANIZATION ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES? ARE WE SEEKING PRIMARILY TO GUARANTEE ACCESS FOR OUR TUNA FLEET TO 200 MILE ZONES AROUND THE SOUTH PACIFIC NATIONS? IF SO, WOULD MEANS OTHER THAN SPRFA, SUCH AS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, BE ACCEPTABLE? OR, IS CONSERVATION OF TUNA A MAJOR FACTOR FOR USG AND DO WE CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP IN SPRFA ESSENTIAL FOR THAT REASON? LIKE WELLINGTON (WELLINGTON 1583) WE WONDER WHETHER TWO TREATY APPROACH WOULD LEAVE FORUM STATES OPEN TO SANCTIONS PROVISION OF 1976 LEGISLATION. WE HAVE HAD SOME INDICATION FROM STATE THAT SANCTIONS WOULD NOT BE APPLIED. DABB AND WILSON CLAIM TO BE CERTAIN SANCTIONS WILL NOT BE APPLIED. IF NOT, DOES USG HAVE OTHER LEVERAGE IT COULD OR WOULD USE?

4. WE ARE DEALING, AS ARE OTHER EMBASSIES, WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE FAMILIAR NOT ONLY WITH THE U.S. POSITION BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO WITH THE REASONING BEHIND IT AND ITS NUANCES. BACKGROUND ON OUR POSITIONS, OUR OBJECTIVES AND THE REASONING BEHIND THEM WOULD PERMIT US TO MAKE A MORE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SOLUTION OF THE NETWORK OF PROBLEMS ABOUT SPRFA.

5. DON'T BELIEVE DEPARTMENT FULLY APPRECIATES LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT USG'S OBJECTIVES AND LACK OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT RATHER TECHNICAL SUBJECT OF FISHERIES AT THIS SMALL, ISOLATED POST. OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, OPENING OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM00485
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780150-0446
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780485/aaaacujo.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: df875cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3053869
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY
TAGS: EFIS, XP, XG, PP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/df875cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014